

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing imaging job control, the method comprising:
constructing a composite imaging job that includes imaging tasks
corresponding to a plurality of diverse imaging types; and
using an imaging spooler subsystem to selectively dispatch at least a portion
5 of the composite imaging job to diverse imaging devices for processing the composite
imaging job.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the composite imaging job is
constructed in a single program unit.

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3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the diverse imaging types comprise at
least one of:

- (i) printing;
- (ii) faxing;
- 15 (iii) scanning;
- (iv) providing document management
- (v) copying.

4. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising exchanging imaging data
20 and operations across at least some of the diverse imaging devices.

5. A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the imaging operations are
programmable.

6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step for constructing a composite imaging job includes utilizing a single imaging job language across all types of imaging devices.

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7. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step for using an imaging spooler subsystem comprises:

communicating with the diverse imaging devices through a common interface;

and

10 translating operations corresponding to the composite imaging job into communication methods that are compatible with the diverse imaging devices.

8. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the processing the composite imaging job comprises:

15 executing a first subset of steps of the composite imaging job at a first imaging device, wherein the first imaging device is one of the diverse imaging devices;

deleting the executed first subset of steps from the composite imaging job; and

20 executing a second subset of steps of the composite imaging job at a second imaging device, wherein the second imaging device is one of the diverse imaging devices.

9. A method for providing imaging job control, the method comprising:
- constructing a composite imaging job that includes imaging tasks corresponding to a plurality of diverse imaging types; and
- using an imaging spooler subsystem to selectively dispatch at least a portion
- 5 of the composite imaging job to an imaging device for processing the composite imaging job, wherein the imaging device is capable of utilizing the diverse imaging types to render the composite imaging job.

10. An imaging system comprising:

a plurality of diverse imaging devices;

a computer device having a spooler subsystems corresponding to the diverse imaging devices and an imaging spooler subsystem, wherein the imaging spooler subsystem is configured to selectively dispatch at least a portion of a composite imaging job to the spooler subsystem for processing the composite imaging job, wherein the composite imaging job includes imaging tasks corresponding to a plurality of diverse imaging types; and

a communication mechanism coupled to the computer device and the plurality of diverse imaging devices.

11. A system as recited in claim 10, further comprising an imaging server coupled to the communication mechanism, and wherein the computer device is an imaging client.

12. A system as recited in claim 10, wherein the plurality of diverse imaging devices include a plurality of multi-functional peripheral devices.

13. A system as recited in claim 10, wherein the imaging spooler subsystem is configured to utilize a single imaging job language across all types of imaging devices.

14. A system as recited in claim 10, further comprising a single program unit, wherein the single program unit is configured to construct the composite imaging job.

15. A system as recited in claim 10, wherein the imaging spooler subsystem is configured to communicate with the plurality of diverse imaging devices through a common interface and to translate operations corresponding to the composite imaging job into communication methods that are compatible with the plurality of diverse imaging devices.

16. A computer program product for implementing within a computer system a method for providing imaging job control, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium for providing computer program code means utilized to implement the method, wherein the computer program code means is comprised of executable code for implementing the steps for:

dynamically constructing a composite imaging job that includes imaging tasks corresponding to a plurality of diverse imaging types; and

using an imaging spooler subsystem to selectively dispatch at least a portion of the composite imaging job to one of (i) diverse imaging devices and (ii) diverse imaging subsystems in a device for processing the composite imaging job.

17. A computer program product as recited in claim 16, further comprising computer program code means comprised of executable code for constructing the composite imaging job in a single program unit.

18. A computer program product as recited in claim 16, further comprising computer program code means comprised of executable code for exchanging imaging data and operations across at least some of the one of (i) diverse imaging devices and (ii) diverse imaging subsystems in a device, wherein the imaging operations are programmable.

19. A computer program product as recited in claim 16, further comprising computer program code means comprised of executable code for utilizing a single imaging job language across all types of imaging devices to implement the method.

5 20. A computer program product as recited in claim 16, further comprising computer program code means comprised of executable code for communicating with the diverse imaging devices through a common interface and translating operations corresponding to the composite imaging job into communication methods that are compatible with the diverse imaging devices.

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